

CHAPTER
24

Section 3

PRIMARY SOURCE

Proclamation of 1860

by Giuseppe Garibaldi

Giuseppe Garibaldi, an Italian nationalist, issued this proclamation before he left on a successful military expedition in May 1860 to liberate Sicily, the first step toward unifying southern Italy. How did Garibaldi try to persuade Italians to fight for Italy's independence?

The Sicilians are fighting against the enemies of Italy, and for Italy. To furnish them with money and with arms, and to bring them the aid of his strong right arm, such is the duty of every Italian. The spirit of discord and the indifference of any one province to the fate of her neighbour are the things that have been at the bottom of the misfortunes of Italy.

The salvation of Italy began on the day on which the sons of the same soil rushed forward to defend their brothers when in danger.

If we abandon these brave children of Sicily and leave them to their fate, they will have to fight against the mercenaries of the Bourbon, plus those of Austria and those of the priest who reigns in Rome.

Let the people of the liberated provinces lift high their voices in championing the cause of their brothers who are fighting! Send your generous youth where the battle is for the Motherland!

Let the Marches, and Umbria, and Sabina, and the Roman Campania, and the land of Naples rise, so as to bring division into the forces of our enemy!

If the towns do not offer sufficient support to the insurrection, let the more determined of you range the country in bands.

A brave man can always find arms! In the name of God, do not listen to the cowards who parade before their richly laden tables!

Let us arm! Let us fight for our brothers! Tomorrow, we shall fight for ourselves.

A little band of brave men who follow me on the country's battlefields are marching to the rescue

along with me. Italy knows them: they appear whenever the tocsin of danger sounds. Noble and generous comrades! they have consecrated their lives to their country. They will give to her their last drop of blood, seeking no other reward save that of having done their duty, and that a clear conscience may abide with them.

"Italy and Victor Emmanuel!" This, our battle-cry when crossing the Ticino, will echo to the fiery rocks of [AE]tna. To this cry, prophetic of combat, and borne along by Italy's lofty mountains as far as the Tarpeian rock, the tottering throne of tyranny will crash. All, then, will rise as one man!

To arms! At one blow, let us end the sufferings of centuries. Let us prove to the world that it was indeed in this land that the sturdy race of ancient Romans once lived.

from Alexandre Dumas, ed., The Memoirs of Garibaldi (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1931), 359.

Discussion Questions

Recognizing Facts and Details

1. According to Garibaldi, what did the embattled Sicilians need to fight Italy's enemies?
2. Why did Garibaldi think Italians should volunteer to help the Sicilians?
3. **Recognizing Propaganda** Propaganda is the use of slanted information to further one's own cause or damage an opponent's cause. What are two examples of propaganda in Garibaldi's proclamation?